



2021 Oshkosh Food Cooperative Board of Directors Statement of Nomination

Name: Heidi Supple

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Brief Biography (150 Words or Less): Growing up in the Pacific Northwest I was surrounded by fresh produce and seafood on a daily basis. I received my BA in Business Administration from Lewis & Clark College in Portland, OR, and my J.D. from Marquette Law School in Milwaukee. I have worked as a Management Consultant and in Corporate Law, and am currently the Corporate Counsel/CFO for the Supple Group. We own restaurants and breweries throughout Oshkosh & Appleton, and among other things I oversee all human resource, contract, and financial operations for our business. With my husband and partners, we have created multiple concepts through the years throughout Wisconsin and have developed projects for the Green Bay Packers, Wisconsin Timber Rattlers and private developers. Our flagship restaurant and brewery in Oshkosh just celebrated its 25-year anniversary and we continue to thrive even during this economic environment through creating marketing, product development and understanding our community.

Please provide a written nomination statement that addresses the following questions. This will be shared with your fellow member-owners and posted on our blog. Recommended length not to exceed 2 pages:

1. What would you bring/offer to the Oshkosh Food Co-op Board?

The most important thing I bring is an entrepreneurial spirit. As a business owner and developer, I have experienced all facets of a business and am a great problem solver. I understand the complexities of large companies, through prior experience in management consulting and corporate law, however my passion is small business and the many roles owners have to fulfill. Having owned businesses in Oshkosh for the past 25 years I am immensely familiar with the Oshkosh and Fox Valley marketplace, and as a restaurant owner I have a solid understanding of how to market to our community.

2. What is your dream for the Oshkosh Food Co-op?

My dream for the Oshkosh Food Co-op would be for it to fulfill the original vision of the founding members. Financially for it to grow from its incredible foundation so it is a thriving grocery store for our community. Educationally for it to be a resource for its neighbors to help build a

healthier foundation for area families, in particular those living in the surrounding food desert. Finally, and most importantly, I dream that it can achieve the person and community connections of a place to socialize, to recharge and to connect on a personal level. The Co-op can become a jewel in the heart of our city, and a showcase for the entire Fox Valley.

3. Why do you think the Oshkosh Food Co-op is important to the greater Oshkosh community?

I believe the Oshkosh Food Co-op is important to the community for two integral reasons. First it is an outlet for local producers to showcase their products and build their own businesses. In an era, particularly one affected by COVID, it has become so easy to shop with a click of your mouse and not think about supporting local producers. The Oshkosh Farmers Market has laid a great foundation for local business owners and the Food Co-Op will provide consistent opportunities throughout the year. This will also help to drive economic traffic to Oshkosh from the entire region.

Secondly, the physical location that has been chosen for the grocery store is an investment into the community with a long-term goal. The location is designated as a food desert in our community with a large surrounding population below the poverty line and grocery stores over 1 mile away. This is an underserved population that due to transportation restrictions may not have the luxury or ability to shop for fresh produce and quality products at an affordable price and instead often rely on convenience food. The Food Co-op can expose and educate an important part of our residents to live a healthier lifestyle which will in turn help improve our community.

4. Why cooperatives?

I would be honored to be on the board because I believe in the mission of bringing the Food Co-op to Oshkosh. The united goal of the originating founders to build a healthy community has been received by the surrounding Oshkosh community with great support. The cooperative model will continue to build connections and support local businesses and families while reinvesting into our local economy.

5. Please offer any additional thoughts you would like Oshkosh Food Co-op member-owners to know about you.

I have prior board experience with both Davis Child Care and the Christine Ann Center Domestic Abuse, Inc. (CADASI), as well as various youth sports program boards.

Please note that the OFC Board of Directors or its Governance Committee may modify the format but not content of self-nominations to ensure all self-nomination documents are consistently presented to member-owners for consideration.